

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO. 25X1A2g

COUNTRY Foreign Countries

DATE OF
INFORMATION 6 - 9 Jan 1950

SUBJECT FOREIGN RADIO REACTION TO THE STATE OF THE
UNION MESSAGE

HOW
PUBLISHED Radio Broadcasts

DATE DIST. // January 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 6 - 9 January 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 00-F-1-1950

LANGUAGE Several

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50
U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED, IS VIOLATED BY THE REVELATION
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE FBID (This strictly factual report is based solely on monitored foreign radio
broadcasts received in Washington up to 7 a.m., 9 January 1949. It
reproduces a report prepared in response to a special request.)

INTRODUCTION: The Soviet Satellite radios are no longer alone in their attacks on
the president's message. Radio Moscow, with several commentaries on the subject, has
finally added its voice to the chorus of Communist criticism. Although somewhat more
outspoken against the message than the initial Satellite radio charges, these Soviet
commentaries add little new content to the overall pattern of Moscow's output. Moscow
concentrates on two major propaganda lines: (1) the "obvious" advance of the American
economic crisis belies the President's "affected optimism" and his "ornate, untruthful
phrases" about the internal state of the Union; and (2) his message is a frank admission
that the United States' "aggressive, colonizing foreign policy" will be continued.
Moscow's propaganda, however, is not as unrestrained as has been the case on previous
occasions. Truman himself, for example, is nowhere called a "warmonger." And there
appears to be some concern with counteracting the President's "hypocritical support
of peace." Western radios continue to broadcast statements in praise of the message.

TRUMAN CONCEALS U.S. ECONOMIC CRISIS: Although Moscow exploits the President's "admission"
of an economic downturn during 1949, considerably more effort is devoted to "proving"
that he demagogically distorted obvious facts about the American scene. "Every word of
his message," says a Soviet Home Service commentary, "pursues but one aim--that of con-
cealing the true picture of America's internal life and the aggressive colonizing nature
of U.S. foreign policy." In addition to familiar assertions that "everyone knows" about
the ruthless advance of the U.S. economic crisis during 1949, the Soviet radio (as well
as the Satellites) repeatedly cites a figure of 14 million American unemployed, including
"part-time" unemployed, and talks about a 22 percent decline in industrial production
during the first 10 months of 1949. Other "facts" allegedly contradicting the President's
"improbable assertions" include allegations about a decline in the American standard of
living, price increases, wage reductions, and widespread inadequacies in housing, education,

~~RESTRICTED~~

CLASSIFICATION ~~RESTRICTED~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB															
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI															

RESTRICTED

and health protection. Generalizing, one commentator reminds listeners that "the economic crisis inherent in the very capitalist system has more than once shattered the United States; and its signs and indications are again obvious today."

TRUMAN REAFFIRMS AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY: Although Moscow and the Satellites devote more time to refutations of the President's optimistic statements about the American economy, they do not ignore his foreign policy statements. Typical of the Soviet line is the charge that the foreign policy part of the message is a "frank admission of the fact that the U.S. intends to go on with its policy of enslavement under the Marshall Plan which constitutes a weapon in the preparations for another war and is called upon to wreck the economy of Western European countries." Familiar "evidence" is cited in support of this charge: the allegedly harmful impact of ERP on West European countries where the living standard is declining and unemployment growing; the American creation of a world system of bases; the allocation of three-fourths of the American budget for "the arms race, preparations for a new war, and plans for world domination."

The charge that the U.S. is preparing for a new war, however, is not emphasized in Soviet broadcasts. Nor does Moscow use its hitherto standard theme that the U.S. is preparing for a war against the USSR and her Satellites. (This theme appears occasionally, however, in Satellite radio broadcasts.) The President's references to Communism are virtually ignored. Only TASS, in a transmission to the local Soviet press, mentions it briefly and charges that Truman "portrayed in this lying light the 'danger' threatening the nations endeavoring to liberate themselves from the imperialist yoke." Moscow also avoids completely the President's statements about atomic energy. Only the Czechoslovak radio refers to the "catastrophic failure of U.S. atomic policy in the past year." And the Hungarian radio is the only one to note that the "President did not mention a single word about the Soviet Union's possession of the atomic secret...."

TRUMAN'S "HYPOCRITICAL" DEVOTION TO PEACE: The Soviet radio makes frequent charges that the "peaceful intentions" expressed by Truman are nothing more than a hypocritical smoke-screen to disguise the American striving for world domination. And TAEGLICHE RUNDSCHAU, the Soviet Army organ in Berlin, is quoted to the effect that "people who looked no further might even think that he is listening to one of the progressive partisans of peace"--a statement suggesting the reason for Moscow's frequent attempts to deny the peaceful intentions expressed by the President.

WESTERN RADIOS: A French-controlled German broadcast hails the message as "something akin to a great ideological approach to world issues"; and a Tel Aviv commentator says that the President "proved once more that he was a sworn friend of the working masses of the United States."

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED